

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-08 NSAE-00 ICA-11

TRSE-00 SOE-02 DOE-15 CIAE-00 COME-00 INR-10

PA-01 SP-02 ACDA-12 IO-13 L-03 NSC-05 NRC-05

OES-09 SS-15 CEQ-01 PM-05 /150 W

-----030297 011315Z /44

R 010733Z AUG 78

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1182

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI

USMISSION USNATO

DIA WASHDC

JCS WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 8292

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TSPA, EAIR, SOPN, CG

SUBJECT: OTRAG PUBLIC RELATIONS EFFORT IN ZAIRE

REF: A) STUTTGART 1436; B) STUTTGART 1228; C) BONN 11697 (NOTAL)

D) KINSHASA 5838 (NOTAL)

1. WEST GERMAN ROCKET FIRM OTRAG IS PARTICIPATING IN THE CURRENT

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NATIONAL FAIR OF KINSHASA (FIKIN-78). THE COMPANY'S EXHIBIT HAS AN ATTRACTIVE, PROFESSIONAL APPEARANCE, FEATURING AN AUTOMATICALLY PROJECTED SLIDE SHOW AND A SHORT FILM. ALTHOUGH THE EXHIBIT ADDS LITTLE TO WHAT IS ALREADY KNOWN ABOUT OTRAG'S OPERATIONS, IT SERVES TO DESPEL SOMEWHAT FURTHER THE EARLIER AIR OF SECRECY WHICH SURROUNDED THE PROJECT.

2. THE GREATER PART OF THE EXHIBIT CONSISTS OF STILL PHOTOS AND A MAP OF THE SHABA LAUNCH SITE, IT AIRCRAFT AND ITS OPERATIONS. ALSO DISPLAYED IS A MODEL OF THE PROJECTED OTRAG 10,000 KILOGRAM LAUNCH VEHICLE AND A COPY OF THE COMPARISON CHART OF LAUNCH VEHICLES OF THE 1980'S AS SHOWN IN THE DECEMBER, 1977 ISSUE OF AFRICA MAGAZINE'S ARTICLE ON OTRAG. MOST OF THE PHOTOS SHOWN, EXCEPT THOSE OF THE RECENT TEST LAUNCHES (INCLUDING THE FAILURES REPORTING REF C), HAVE BEEN SEEN BEFORE IN THE COMPANY'S BROCHURE AND OTHER PUBLICITY.

3. COMMENT: OTRAG'S MORE FORTHCOMING PUBLIC RELATIONS POSTURE PROBABLY REFLECTS A REALIZATION THAT ITS PREVIOUS POLICY OF PUBLIC SILENCE PROVIDED GRIST FOR THE SOVIET PROPAGANDA MILL. THE TRANSFER OF OTRAG'S ZAIRE HEADQUARTERS FROM LUBUMBASHI TO KINSHASA ON JUNE 30 SHOULD MAKE COMPANY SPOKESMEN GENERALLY MORE ACCESSIBLE TO PUBLIC AND MEDIA.
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NNN

Message Attributes

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